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Reviewed by: <u>John B. [signature]</u>	
Date: <u>11 Feb 1987</u>	

E.O. 12065: RDS-4, 9/26/86 (TOON, MALCOLM) OR-M  
TAGS: PEPR, CU, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET TROOPS IN CUBA: COMMENTS BY [REDACTED]

B-1  
A-9

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. [REDACTED]

B-1  
A-3

END SUMMARY.

3. DURING LUNCHEON DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS OF ARTHUR COX'S DELEGATION, WHICH IS VISITING SOVIET UNION TO DISCUSS DISARMAMENT AND NUCLEAR ENERGY ISSUES, COX VOLUNTEERED TO EMBOFF AN ACCOUNT OF DISCUSSION HIS GROUP HAD ON SEPTEMBER 24 AND 25. [REDACTED]

B-1  
A-94. SOVIETS, FIRST, REITERATED THEMES WHICH HAVE  
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APPEARED IN BOTH SOVIET AND U.S. PRESS. NAMELY,

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-- SOVIETS EXPRESSED CONFUSION OVER REASONS WHY USG HAS RAISED THIS ISSUE AND SPECULATED THAT IT MIGHT REPRESENT THE MACHINATIONS OF HAWKS AND HARDLINERS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN IMPEDING U.S./SOVIET RELATIONS AND POLICY OF DETENTE, ESPECIALLY SALT II.

-- SOVIET TROOPS HAVE BEEN IN CUBA FOR A LONG TIME (17 YEARS) AND THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN THIS SITUATION. IN 1962, AT TIME OF MISSILE CRISIS, THERE WERE 20,000 TO 30,000 SOVIET TROOPS IN CUBA.

-- THE PURPOSE OF THESE TROOPS IS TO TRAIN THE CUBAN MILITARY, ACROSS-THE-BOARD, INCLUDING TRAINING IN SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY TO HELP CUBA DEFEND ITSELF FROM U.S. MILITARY ACTIONS.

-- THE PRESENCE OF THESE SOVIET TROOPS IN CUBA DOES NOT CONTRAVENE THE EXISTING UNDERSTANDINGS ON CUBA BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE USSR.

4. SOVIETS THEN MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

[REDACTED]

B-1  
A-3

[REDACTED]

B-1  
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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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